Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides cellulose fibers having low median desorption pressures and low water retention values (WRV), which exhibit improved drainage and fluid flow properties. These fibers are particularly well suited for use in acquisition, distribution, and acquisition-distribution layers, or in absorbent core structures. One embodiment of the invention is a method for preparing cellulose fibers by refining cellulose fibers to a freeness ranging from about 300 to about 700 ml CSF and crosslinking the refined fibers. Another embodiment of the invention is fibers crosslinked with at least one saturated dicarboxylic acid, aromatic dicarboxylic acid, cycloalkyl discarboxylic acid, bifunctional monocarboxylic acid, or amine carboxylic acid. A crosslinking facilitator, such as oxalic acid, may be present during the crosslinking reaction to improve the efficacy of the crosslinking agent. Yet another embodiment of the invention is an absorbent core comprising SAP particles and reversible crosslinked fibers.